

### **REMARKS**

In the February 8, 2006 Office Action, the specification was objected to and claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-18 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 19 and 20 were withdrawn for being directed to a non-elected embodiment. Claims 1-9 also were rejected for failing to comply with the written description requirement. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

#### ***Status of Claims and Amendments***

In response to the February 8, 2006 Office Action, Applicant has amended the specification and claims 1 and 10, and added claim 21 as indicated above. Thus, claims 1-21 are pending, with claims 1 and 10 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

#### ***Election of Species***

In item 2 of the Office Action, Applicant's election without traverse in the reply filed on August 5, 2005 was acknowledged. Thus, as mentioned in item 2 of the Office Action, non-elected claims 19 and 20 were withdrawn from further consideration. However, Applicant respectfully requests that non-elected claims 19 and 20 be rejoined in this application upon allowance of a generic or linking claim, or claims. Specifically, non-elected claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 10.

#### ***Drawings***

In item 3 of the Office Action, the drawings filed on December 19, 2005 were approved. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for consideration of the drawings.

### ***Specification***

In item 4 of the Office Action, the specification was objected to failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, “a plate member being arranged in said opening” in claim 10 of the present application.

In response, Applicant has amended the claim to change “an opening” to -- a window opening --. Applicant believes the specification provides proper antecedent basis at paragraphs [0022], [0031], and [0041], and Figure 10. Specifically, the specification discloses a plate member 162 arranged in a window opening 143, more specifically, a concave part 164a of the window opening 143.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the aforementioned reference numerals and Figures are cited for explanation purposes and not meant to limit the claims.

Applicant believes that the specification is now correct. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112***

In item 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify claims 1-9.

Specifically, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the first rotating member has a flange having a window opening, and that the plate member is arranged in the window opening. As mentioned, support for this limitation can be found in paragraphs [0022], [0031], and [0041], and Figure 10.

Applicant believes that the claims now comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

***Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

In item 6 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,787,612 (Ball et al.). Further, in item 7 of the Office Action, claims 10-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,302,799 (Hashimoto). In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 10 to define clearly the present invention over the prior art of record.

In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first rotating member has a flange with a window opening in which the plate member is arranged. Further, claim 1 now also recites that the plate member is supported by the second rotating member and is movable with respect to the first and second rotating members in a rotational direction. As seen in Figure 1 of Ball, Ball discloses a plate member 52 arranged in the opening of the hub and not the hub flange as now recited in claim 1 of the present application. Further, as seen in Figure 1 and column 3, lines 45-57 of Ball, the plate member 52 disclosed by Ball is not movable with respect to the first rotating member 19.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite that the plate member is arranged in the window opening of the hub flange in an elastically deformed state. On page 4 of the Office Action, the elastically deformed member of the plate member disclosed by Hashimoto et al. is identified as the cone spring 78, which is not arranged in a window opening of the hub flange, in contrast to amended claim 10 of the present application.

Clearly, these structures are *not* disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record. It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 10, as now amended, are not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicant believes that the dependent claims are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claims 1 and 10, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not anticipate the independent claims 1 and 10, neither does the prior art anticipate the dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

### ***Response to Arguments***

In item 8(c) of the Office Action, it was noted that Applicant stated that additional prior art references were made of record and that these references were not identified. Applicant respectfully asserts that this argument was inadvertently included in the previous response, and that Applicant is currently unaware of additional prior art references. Applicant's representative wishes to apologize for the confusion.

### ***New Claim - 21***

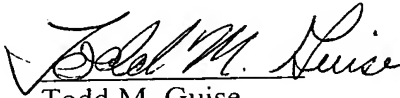
Applicants have added new claim 21, which depends on claim 10. Thus, Applicants believe that claim 21 is allowable for the reasons stated above, and is further allowable because it recites additional limitations.

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Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2005

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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